

**REMARKS**

Amendments to the Claims

Entry of the foregoing amendments to Claims 19, 20, 37, 38 and 45 is respectfully requested. The amendments to these previously presented claims correct errors of formality. No examination is required and no new matter is introduced in the application.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In response to the Notice of Allowability mailed September 26, 2005, the applicants traverse the Examiner's statement of the Reason for Allowance to the extent it differs from a mere restatement of the claim language. Applicants further traverse the Examiner's statement and reasoning to the extent that they state or suggest an interpretation of the claimed invention different from the full extent of claim scope afforded thereto by the established law in the absence of the statement of the reasons for allowance.

For example, the statement of the Reason for Allowance includes references to a "distributed session counter" and an "authoritative distributed session counter." However, the foregoing terms are not recited in at least Claims 1-18, 43 and 44. Any claims that do not recite the foregoing elements are not limited to use of such elements, i.e., a distributed session counter or an authoritative distributed session counter. Furthermore, use of the foregoing elements, and any corresponding limiting of scope that such elements may impart into a claim, are not to be read into or imparted into any claims that do not explicitly recite such elements.

Entry and allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 2/21/06

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